

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /102 W
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R 011043Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8394
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 09885

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINR, JA
SUBJECT: REPORTS OF UPCOMING FOREIGN OFFICE PERSONNEL
SHIFTS

1. IN PAST WEEKS BOTH ASAHI AND YOMIURI ARTICLES HAVE
SUGGESTED PATTERN OF IMPENDING SHIFTS WITHIN UPPER
ECHELON OF MOFA. ASAHI BROKE NEWS OF PLANNED REPLACEMENT
OF JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW, AKIRA SHIGEMITSU, BY
PRESENT ENVOY TO EGYPT, TOKICHIRO UOMOTO. STUNG BY
ASAHI SCOOP, YOMIURI RUSHED INTO PRINT MORE
SPECULATIVE REPORT, OUTLINING MAJOR PERSONNEL SHIFTS IT
SAID WERE EXPECTED TO OCCUR FOLLOWING BONN SUMMIT IN JULY:

-- REPLACEMENT OF AMBASSADOR TO U.S. FUMIHIKO TOGO BY VICE
-- MINISTER KEISUKE ARITA;

-- REPLACEMENT OF ARITA BY PRESENT DEPUTY VICE MINISTER
-- MASAO TAKASHIMA;

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-- TAKASHIMA'S REPLACEMENT IN TURN BY AMBASSADOR TO
-- AUSTRALIA TOSHIO OKAWARA;

-- REPLACEMENT OF AMBASSADOR TO UK, TADAO KATO, PROBABLY
-- BY AMBASSADOR TO GENEVA MASAO SAWAKI;

--MOVEMENT OF ASIAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL YOSUKE NAKAE

-- TO UNNAMED AMBASSADORIAL POST WITH REPLACEMENT BY
-- INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL
-- KENSUKE YANAGIYA.

2. SOURCES IN BOTH MOFA AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HAVE
CONFIRMED TO EMBOFFS THAT, ALTHOUGH NOT YET PUBLICLY
ANNOUNCED, UOMOTO'S TRANSFER TO MOSCOW WAS FIRM. CHOICE
OF UOMOTO, PRIMARILY AN ASIAN AND MIDEAST SPECIALIST WITH
PREVIOUS SERVICE AS MIDEAST AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL AND
AMBASSADOR TO SINGAPORE, INITIALLY OCCASIONED SOME SURPRISE
WITHIN MOFA. RESERVED BY NATURE, UOMOTO IS NOT ONE OF
MOFA'S BETTER-KNOWN SENIOR OFFICERS, BUT HE DOES HAVE
CORRIDOR REPUTATION AS QUIETLY EFFECTIVE AND FIRM DIPLOMAT.
MORE DETAILED BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON UOMOTO WILL FOLLOW
SEPTTEL.

3. MOFA OFFICIALS HAVE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH YOMIURI
DESCRIPTION OF BROADER PERSONNEL CHANGES WAS LOGICAL,
DETAILS AND TIMING REMAINED FAR FROM DEFINITE AT THIS
TIME. NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIVISION OFFICER OBSERVED
THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION THAT
ARITA WOULD REPLACE TOGO IN NEAR FUTURE, CONTINUING
FAMILIAR GAIMUSHO PATTERN, THERE WAS ALSO RUMOR VICE
MINISTER WOULD TURN DOWN WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT FOR
UNDISCLOSED REASONS. MANSFIELD

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